October 8, 2021

VIA ECF

The Honorable P. Kevin Castel United States District Judge Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse 500 Pearl St. New York, New York 10007

Re: In re Google Digital Advertising, 1:21-md-03010 (PKC); Requested Coordination Update from Plaintiffs

Dear Judge Castel:

During the Court's September 24, 2021 pretrial conference, the Court requested that representatives from the Plaintiff States (the "States"), publisher classes, direct-action newspaper publishers, and advertiser classes (collectively, the "Plaintiffs") meet in the short term, coordinate certain action items through a Plaintiffs' Coordinating Committee, and report back to the Court.² Pursuant to the Court's Individual Practices, we note that there is no conference scheduled at this time.

This week, on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, representatives from the States, publisher classes, direct-action newspaper publishers, and advertiser classes met at the Lanier Law Firm's New York City office. As directed by the Court, the Plaintiffs are finalizing a draft protective order to propose to Google LLC ("Google") and Facebook, Inc. ("Facebook") (collectively, "Defendants"). Simultaneously, the Plaintiffs are also consolidating comments on an ESI Stipulation and an Expert Stipulation to be presented to Defendants for negotiation and submission to the Court. Further, the Plaintiffs are drafting consolidated Rule 34 requests and working through the logistics of a document repository and FTP site/location for Defendants to produce documents to a single location for dissemination to all plaintiffs/parties.

Pursuant to the Court's September 7, 2021 Order (ECF No. 61), today the States are also filing a response to Google's Pre-Motion Letter (ECF No. 136), laying out new agreed dates for the filing of the States' Third Amended Complaint and briefing on Google's anticipated Motion to Dismiss. In order to help ensure that the Third Amended Complaint is as representative and complete as possible, the Plaintiffs respectfully submit that an interim protective order limiting the States' disclosure of investigatory material and information to outside counsel attorneys' eyes only will help facilitate communication and exchange of information among all plaintiffs. As the Court has noted, the States' Second Amended Complaint covers much of the waterfront in the other underlying cases in this MDL; however, part of the information contained in the Second Amended

¹ For the purposes of this letter, the capitalized term "Plaintiffs" does not include Associated Newspapers Ltd. ("Associated Newspapers").

² The Court also directed counsel for the three advertiser class cases to confer to determine a structure so that, in instances where there are common issues to be addressed among their respective proposed classes, they can speak with "approximately one voice." 9/24/21 Hr'g Tr. at 32:22-33:5. To that end, counsel in the three advertisers classes have had discussions and believe they can comply with the Court's directive.

Complaint and the forthcoming Third Amended Complaint refers to potentially confidential material and information from Google and third parties that has been designated "confidential." Although we are hopeful that Defendants will negotiate a protective order with all deliberate speed, the process will likely delay and hinder the States' ability to finalize a comprehensive Third Amended Complaint in consultation with the other interested plaintiffs. In the interest of time, the Plaintiffs request that the Court issue an interim protective order permitting the States to share the unredacted Second Amended Complaint and drafts of the Third Amended Complaint with all Plaintiffs' outside counsel, including Associated Newspapers.³

Finally, during the pretrial conference and the corresponding Minute Order (ECF No. 129), the Court set deadlines of October 1, 2021, and October 8, 2021, for a letter and responses, respectively, related to Kellogg Hansen (counsel for plaintiff Associated Newspapers) serving on the Plaintiffs' Coordinating Committee. In light of the October 1, 2021 letter filed by John Thorne (ECF No. 138), and Kellogg Hansen's commitment to not participate on the Plaintiffs' Coordinating Committee, or in discussions regarding Google's alleged agreement with Facebook, Plaintiffs believe that, subject to periodic reevaluation, appropriate measures can be taken to limit Kellogg Hansen's participation in joint activities so as to avoid any prejudice to the Plaintiffs.

Respectfully submitted,

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Submitted on behalf of all Plaintiff States

³ The importance of permitting the States to share an unredacted copy of their draft Third Amended Complaint with the other plaintiffs, and obtain their input, is underscored by the Court's decision to stay briefing on the pleadings in all cases except the States' case. See ECF No. 129, ¶2. Further, the Court has already indicated that all documents produced to the States will be produced to plaintiffs in this MDL.

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